



ORIGINAL

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12/07/2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

**Christian Assembly  
Foursquare Church**  
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December 5, 2016

Your Honors:

First, let me say thank you for allowing public comment to the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) to the Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys.

Admittedly, I am not well versed in legal matters so I will limit my objections to this rule proposal, to what appears to me to be excessive and in some instances redundant. This new proposed rule strikes me **as excessive**, in that certain attorneys would have their freedom "of speech" diminished, while it seems to grant and increase and protection of freedom to others. People, whose freedom of choice, in sexual orientation for example, would hold a significant edge over certain attorney's right of speech and religious freedom.

This proposed rule strikes me in some ways **as redundant**, in that to my observation there already exists a great body of law protecting all people from every kind of injustice. We have a State Constitution which protects the rights of all its people already. If someone wishes to change their sex or choose to live in a same sex relationship that right already exists.

But, it should also remain the right of any other citizen of this State, with any occupation, to have equal liberty under law to hold to a tenant of Christian faith and have the same freedom to express that belief. This proposed rule is far too restrictive, certainly for some of Montana's attorneys. This rule could seriously limit those who practice law in this State and/or threaten their livelihood. It will certainly limit their freedom.

I beg the Court to deny this proposed rule change.  
Sincerely,

Michael A. McGovern

***Michael A. McGovern***

Michael A McGovern, Pastor  
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1001 Cleveland St.  
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